

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An orthodontic bracket placement device comprising:

a ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means for engaging an arch wire slot of an orthodontic bracket, said bracket engaging means including a contacting surface for abutting a contacting surface of said arch wire slot when said bracket engaging means engages said arch wire slot; and

a vertical shaft extending from said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means, said shaft including a plurality of indicia for aligning with the incisal edge of a tooth when said bracket placement device is used to place an orthodontic bracket ~~engaged by said engaging means~~ on the facial aspect of a tooth while said bracket engaging means only engages said arch wire slot, wherein the contacting surface of said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means ~~forms a junction with~~ is offset from said vertical shaft ~~that is off center of said horizontal in the x-direction of said~~ bracket engaging means.

2. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said plurality of indicia comprises lines.

3. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 2, wherein said lines have at least two different colors.

4. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 3, wherein said at least two different colors each indicate a different specific vertical placement of said orthodontic bracket on said tooth.

5. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said plurality of indicia are etched into said shaft.

6. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said plurality of indicia glow in the dark.

7. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means is at an angle of between about ~~70.degree.~~ 70° and about ~~110.degree.~~ 110° from a horizontal plane with respect to said vertical shaft.

8. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means is at an angle of substantially ~~90.degree.~~ 90° from a horizontal plane with respect to said vertical shaft.

9. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, further comprising a dental scaler located at an end of the device opposite to a junction formed between said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means and said vertical shaft.

10. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, further comprising a mirror located at an end of the device opposite to a junction formed between said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means and said vertical shaft.

11. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said device comprises stainless steel.

12. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said device comprises a polymeric material.

13. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said device is of unibody construction.

14. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said plurality of indicia each indicate a different specific vertical placement of said orthodontic bracket on said tooth.

15. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 14, wherein said plurality of indicia correspond to bracket placements of 3.5mm, 4.0mm, 4.5mm and 5.0mm measured from the incisal edge of said tooth.

16. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, further comprising a stop disposed on said vertical shaft.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said ~~junction~~ vertical shaft is offset off center in the y plane from the center of said contacting surface of said horizontal bracket engaging means in the y-direction of the bracket engaging means.

19. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, further comprising a threaded opening for receiving a dental tool having a coordinated screw, wherein said threaded opening is located at an end of the device opposite to a junction formed between said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means and said vertical shaft.

20. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, further comprising an opening device located at an end of the device opposite to a junction formed between said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means and said vertical shaft.

21. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means is about 0.1 to about 0.2 inches in height.

22. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means is about 0.16 inches in height.

23. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means is about 2 to about 4 mm in width.

24. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means is about 5 to about 15 mm in length.

25. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means is about 10 mm in length.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for placing an orthodontic bracket on a tooth comprising:

placing engaging said orthodontic bracket on said tooth at a particular vertical position on said tooth using a bracket placement device by engaging a horizontal bracket engaging means of said device with a bracket and aligning one of a with an orthodontic bracket placement device comprising a bracket engaging means for engaging an arch wire slot of an orthodontic bracket, said bracket engaging means including a contacting surface for abutting a contacting surface of said arch wire slot when said bracket engaging means engages said arch wire slot, and a vertical shaft extending from said bracket engaging means, said shaft including a plurality of indicia on a vertical shaft of said bracket placement device for aligning with the incisal edge of said tooth, when said bracket placement device is used to place an orthodontic bracket on the facial aspect of a tooth while said bracket engaging means only engages said arch wire slot, wherein the contacting surface of said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means forms a junction with is offset from said vertical shaft that is off-center in the x-direction of said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means; and

adhering placing said orthodontic bracket to said tooth at a particular position on the tooth using said orthodontic bracket placement device.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said plurality of indicia comprises lines.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said lines have at least two different colors.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said at least two different colors each indicate a different specific vertical placement of said orthodontic bracket on said tooth.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein one of said at least two different colors corresponds to a color located on said bracket.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said color located on said bracket is located on a wing of said bracket.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said wing is the distolingual wing of said bracket.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said plurality of indicia are etched into a vertical shaft of said device.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said plurality of indicia glow in the dark.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means is at an angle of between about ~~70.degree.~~ 70° and about ~~110.degree.~~ 110° from a horizontal plane with respect to a vertical shaft of said device.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means is at an angle of substantially ~~90.degree.~~ 90° from a horizontal plane with respect to a vertical shaft of said device.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said plurality of indicia each indicate a different specific vertical placement of said orthodontic bracket on said tooth.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said plurality of indicia correspond to bracket placements of 3.5mm, 4.0mm, 4.5mm and 5.0mm measured from the incisal edge of said tooth.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising a stop disposed on a vertical shaft of said device.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein said stop is engaged with a region of said device having said plurality of indicia and said stop is aligned with the incisal edge of said tooth.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein said ~~junction~~ vertical shaft is ~~off-center~~ offset in the y-plane from the center of said contact surface of said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means in the y-direction of the bracket engaging means.

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising a threaded opening for receiving a dental tool having a coordinated screw, wherein said threaded opening is located at an end of the device opposite to a junction formed between said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means and said vertical shaft.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising an opening device located at an end of the device opposite to a junction formed between said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means and said vertical shaft.

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 44, wherein said opening device is used to open or close a slide operatively engaged with said bracket.

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means is about 0.1 to about 0.2 inches in height.

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means is about 0.16 inches in height.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means is about 2 to about 4 mm in width.

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means is about 5 to about 15 mm in length.

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means is about 10 mm in length.

51. (Currently Amended) A saleable kit comprising:

at least one orthodontic bracket placement device comprising:

a ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means for engaging an arch wire slot of an orthodontic bracket, said bracket engaging means including a contacting surface for abutting a contacting surface of said arch wire slot when said bracket engaging means engages said arch wire slot; and

a vertical shaft extending from said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means, said shaft including a plurality of indicia for aligning with the incisal edge of a tooth when said bracket placement device is used to place an orthodontic bracket ~~engaged by said engaging means~~ on the facial aspect of a tooth while said bracket engaging means only engages said arch wire slot, wherein the contacting surface of said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means forms a junction with is offset from said vertical shaft ~~that is off center of said horizontal in the x-direction of said bracket engaging means;~~ and

one or more brackets.

52. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 51, wherein said kit is sterilized.

53. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 51, further comprising at least one bracket.

54. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 53, wherein said kit is sterilized.
55. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 51, further comprising arch wire.
56. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 55, wherein said kit is sterilized.
57. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 51, further comprising dental adhesive.
58. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 57, wherein said kit is sterilized.
59. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 51, wherein said plurality of indicia comprises lines.
60. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 59, wherein said lines have at least two different colors.
61. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 60, wherein said at least two different colors each indicate a different specific vertical placement of said orthodontic bracket on said tooth.
62. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 61, further comprising at least one bracket.
63. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 62, wherein one of said at least two different colors corresponds to a color located on said bracket.
64. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 63, wherein said color located on said bracket is located on a wing of said bracket.
65. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 64, wherein said wing is the distogingival wing of said bracket.

66. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 51, wherein said plurality of indicia are etched into said shaft.

67. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 51, wherein said plurality of indicia glow in the dark.

68. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 51, wherein said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means is at an angle of between about ~~70-degree~~ 70° and about ~~+10-degree~~ 110° from a horizontal plane with respect to said vertical shaft.

69. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 51, wherein said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means is at an angle of substantially ~~90-degree~~ 90° from a horizontal plane with respect to said vertical shaft.

70. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 51, further comprising a dental scaler located at an end of the device opposite to a junction formed between said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means and said vertical shaft.

71. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 51, further comprising a mirror located at an end of the device opposite to a junction formed between said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means and said vertical shaft.

72. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 51, wherein said device comprises stainless steel.

73. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 51, wherein said device comprises a polymeric material.

74. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 51, wherein said device is of unibody construction.

75. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 51, wherein said plurality of indicia each indicate a different specific vertical placement of said orthodontic bracket on said tooth.

76. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 75, wherein said plurality of indicia correspond to bracket placements of 3.5mm, 4.0mm, 4.5mm and 5.0mm measured from the incisal edge of said tooth.

77. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 51, further comprising a stop disposed on said vertical shaft.

78. (Cancelled)

79. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 51, wherein said ~~junction~~ vertical shaft is ~~off-center~~ offset in the y plane from the center of said contacting surface of said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means in the y-direction of the bracket engaging means.

80. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 51, further comprising a threaded opening for receiving a dental tool having a coordinated screw, wherein said threaded opening is located at an end of the device opposite to a junction formed between said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means and said vertical shaft.

81. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 51, further comprising an opening device located at an end of the device opposite to a junction formed between said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means and said vertical shaft.

82. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 51, wherein said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means is about 0.1 to about 0.2 inches in height.

83. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 51, wherein said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means is about 0.16 inches in height.

84. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 51, wherein said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means is about 2 to about 4 mm in width.

85. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 51, wherein said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means is about 5 to about 15 mm in length.

86. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 51, wherein said ~~horizontal~~ bracket engaging means is about 10 mm in length.